

Worship Sharing 7/5/22

"Cherished Unity of Spirit"

"A meeting is more than simply a worshipping community. It is a group of people living in the world and facing the challenge of witnessing to it. Worship can lead far beyond what one does on Sunday. Meeting for worship can be more than just an occasion on which one's private religious needs are satisfied. Silent devotion should lead to an awareness that the meeting is less and less a place we choose ourselves, and more and more a place to which, out of love, God has called us. . .

Early Friends knew, practiced and cherished this unity of spirit. They called it "gospel order," for they felt the presence of the Lord among them, guiding and leading, so strongly that they dispensed with any human assistant or intermediary. But they were not the individualists of their detractors' imaginations. They had a close feeling of being together, irrevocably, for the nature of the light was to call people into fellowship."

– John Punshon (1987)

Queries

How does this quote speak to your experience?

How has Worship in Friends community reached "far beyond what one does on Sunday" in your experience?

When have you experienced the leadership of the spirit in community, here referred to as "gospel order"?